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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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NO BAN ON MUSLIM WORKERS

ABOLISH BORDERS

President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration, banning travel to the U.S. from seven mainly Muslim countries, has endangered and torn apart thousands of workers' lives. A four-month-old baby from Iran was denied life-saving heart surgery. A breastfeeding Sudanese mother was separated from her 11-month-old child while both were detained at a Dallas airport. Countless refugees were trapped in life-threatening situations. Entry was denied to an Iraqi translator who'd risked his life for U.S. imperialism in the bosses' war in Iraq; to an Iranian biologist working on a cure for tuberculosis at Harvard; to countless other scientists, doctors, researchers, and students.

While the U.S. bosses wage imperialist war, devastating millions of workers, they are also working overtime to prevent workers from escaping their death sentence (see box). No matter how the U.S. judicial process plays out, this racist policy serves only the needs of the capitalist ruling class. Sharpening imperialist rivalries—conflicts between bosses of different countries—are pushing the world closer to a wider global war. Whatever their internal differences, the U.S. rulers are using Trump's anti-Muslim ban and "America First" nationalism to win the U.S. working class to their cause: the fight for U.S. capitalism and the bosses' oil profits.

The difference between Trump and Barack Obama is less about ideology and more about political strategy. Obama deported record numbers but veiled his racist policies with lip service to religious and racial tolerance—a tactic to deceive and pacify the working class. Trump has taken an openly racist tack to mobilize his racist base. The good news is that anti-racist workers have responded en masse and fought back. Within hours of Trump's signing his executive order, thousands of workers--Black, Latino, Asian, and white, men and women, young and old—rushed to join protests at numerous airports and dozens of cities throughout the U.S. and the world, from London and Paris to Manila and Jakarta. Workers set aside religious differences and joined in multiracial unity. This unity is essential for the working class to win a world free of racist borders, sexism, war and poverty, a communist world run by and for the international working class.

Workers protest in Glasgow, Scotland in response to Trump's executive order on immigration.

Thousands of protesters occupied airports across the U.S., including here at San Francisco International Airport (see page 8).

Ban: Nothing New for U.S. Racism

These attacks on workers are nothing new. Trump's racist fear-mongering comes on the heels of eight years of Deporter-in-Chief Obama's racist immigration policies. (Between 2009 and 2014, Obama deported 2.5 million workers.) Trump's "new" policy, in fact, is born out of Obama's 2015 Terror Prevention Act, which listed the seven

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OUR FIGHT

✯Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✯ the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✯Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✯While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✯Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✯Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✯Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✯Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✯Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✯Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

No Ban on Muslim Workers

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countries in question. Obama's act, in turn, was a "turbo-charged" version of President George W. Bush's immigration policy (Nation, 6/27/16).

Fortified national borders—the better to divide and exploit the working class--are essential to capitalism. In the 1930s, under liberal Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the U.S. bosses deported hundreds of thousands of workers to Mexico. During World War II, they turned away mainly Jewish refugees, sending them straight to the Nazis' death camps. More recently, the bosses have used anti-Muslim racism to justify countless invasions, pillaging, and destruction in the Middle East (see box). For workers, crossing the border between the U.S. and Mexico has become more and more deadly for workers. During the Obama administration, children sent by their parents as a last effort to flee conflict in Central America were sent back—even though it was effectively a death sentence for some (New York Times, 7/16/16).

Trump's immigration ban was significant as well for the countries it excluded—most notably Saudi Arabia, the leading source of cheaply extracted oil and a source of huge profits for ExxonMobil, where U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was CEO until last December: "In his order... Trump invoked the Sept. 11 attacks three times. Yet Saudi Arabia... home to 15 of the 19 attackers, was not included on the list of countries...[This] reflects the deep economic and security ties between the United States and Saudi Arabia" (NYT, 1/30).

The Courts and Liberals Won't Save Us

So what does it mean when the courts and many politicians—both Democrats and Republicans—are denouncing Trump? It reflects the rulers' disarray as they try to get their capitalist class in line and protect the faltering U.S. empire. To that end, they will not blink at killing millions of workers around the world. Although Trump is less predictable and perhaps less easily controlled than other recent presidents, he will either deliver the pro-war movement the bosses need or they will find another racist politician to take his place. The judges temporarily blocking Trump's order are the same forces that target Black workers for racist mass incarceration. Meanwhile, the real criminals on Wall Street are stealing billions from our class.

We cannot vote or petition our way out of capitalist oppression. The only way for the working class to get what we need is through mass revolutionary violence and the seizure of state power. To win the world, the international working class, organized by Progressive Labor Party, will have to take it! Only communist revolution, led by PLP, can smash exploitation and mass imperialist murder for all time.

Smash All Borders

The thousands of anti-racists who have taken to the streets and the airports send an important signal of resistance to the bosses' attempts to divide the working class. They show the potential of multiracial unity to fight back. But fighting for a "fairer" immigration policy is a losing battle for the working class. Borders are created by capitalism; they serve only the bosses. Meanwhile, capital flows freely from one country to the next. The international working class has no need for these artificial lines. Smashing nationalist borders and building a revolutionary mass working-class movement is the only way forward.

Every time the bosses attack, we, the international working class, must be organized to fight back and confront them with multiracial unity. On Friday, February 3, more than a thousand New York City bodega owners went on strike against Trump's ban and in solidarity with the detainees. Marchers protesting the racist police murder of Ramarley Graham in the Bronx joined the bodega protesters. To move this unity to the next level, we must turn reform battles into a fight for communism. The international working class deserves a better world--a communist world, led by PLP!✪

The 7 Countries Banned are Targets of U.S. Imperialism

The bosses' media has used anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism to paint war in the Middle East as part of an endless conflict between Muslim sects. But the real cause of the horrors inflicted upon our class is inter-imperialist rivalry, as can be seen in the seven countries targeted by Trump.

In Iran:

U.S. bosses remain locked in a struggle with China and Russia, the main backers of the Iranian regime, for control over the Middle East's vast energy wealth, an increasingly deadly struggle for the working class.

What US bosses fear most is the encirclement and isolation of Saudi Arabia and its oil fields, the grand prize for U.S. imperialism, by Iran and its regional allies.

In Iraq:

The U.S. has a long history of attacks on the Iraqi working class, most recently killing more than one million in the second Iraq War.

Iraq is emerging once again as a focal point for U.S. rulers. U.S. bosses remain locked into Iraq's petroleum-soaked politics.

ExxonMobil's vast and growing operations in the country are aimed at controlling Iraqi oil sources, which are of growing importance to rival Chinese bosses.

In Syria:

For millions of workers, the horror of wider war is already a reality. The U.S. proxy war with Russia has left cities demolished, displaced millions of refugees, and slaughtered hundreds of thousands workers.

Trump's order includes a total and indefinite ban on Syrian refugees.

In Libya:

Using the phony "responsibility to protect" excuse for waging wider wars, then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton engineered a U.S. invasion in 2011. Bombing and missile raids by the U.S. were supposedly aimed at saving Libya's citizens from dictator Muammar Qaddafi. In reality, however, the invasion was designed to consolidate oil deals the imperialist powers had made with the unreliable Qaddafi and each other.

In Sudan:

China first supported the Sudanese government in Khartoum fighting against separatist rebels in the south, who were funded by the U.S. But when the rebels succeeded in freeing their oil-rich province from control of the Khartoum regime, the Chinese skillfully switched sides to sustain their gas and oil projects.

China helped develop the South Sudan oil industry, which now exports 80 percent of its oil to China.

Chinese troops are part of a UN "peacekeeping force" that protects the oil wells and pipelines.

In Yemen:

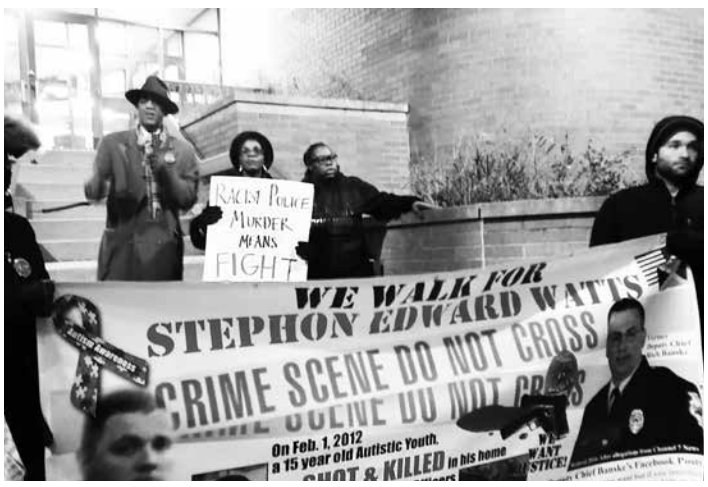
Yemen is being torn apart in a proxy war between the Iran-backed Houthi rebels and the pro-Saudi/U.S. regime. A Saudi-led coalition has conducted indiscriminate air strikes across the country, killing thousands of workers. The finance capitalists fear any threat to U.S. control over the world's foremost profit center in neighboring Saudi Arabia.

In Somalia:

The working class is caught in the crossfire of the imperialists' fight to control Middle East oil. Over the last several months, the U.S.'s rampage has increased to six raids a month (Telesurtv, 10/16). Obama folded these raids into the perpetual war waged under the "Authorization for Use of Military Force," the Congressional legislation signed into law one week after 9-11.

5 Years Later

No Justice for Stephon Watts under Capitalism



CALUMET CITY, Feb 1—Today's rally marked another year no justice served for the racist murder of Stephon Watts.

Five years ago, on the morning of February 1, 2012, Calumet City kkkops William Coffey and Robert Hynek forcibly entered the home of 15-year-old Stephon Watts and shot him dead in his basement. The Watts family still struggles with the pain of losing their loved one, and the fact that his racist murderers are still free to terrorize other working-class youth and their families. PLP was active in planning the rally that marked the fifth anniversary of his murder, continuing the fight for justice for Stephon and for all other victims of capitalist state violence.

Shot and Killed for being Black with a Butter Knife

To those who knew him best, Stephon is remembered as a vibrant child who loved working with computers. He was diagnosed at an early age with Asperger's syndrome, a high-functioning form of autism. On the morning he was murdered, his father had called 911, as instructed by medical professionals, to deal with an outburst Stephon was having before school.

The two kkkops, both of whom were familiar with Stephon's condition, pushed their way into the house although Stephon's father insisted that the situation was under control by that point. Upon seeing Stephon with a butter knife in his hands at the bottom of the stairs, the racist thugs opened fire, killing the youth instantly.

Despite the outrage and tireless fightback of family, workers, and students, the racist courts soon declared the murder justified and threw the case out. While supporting the family in their struggle, the comrades involved have consistently put forward the communist analysis of the class role of the police and the courts under capitalism. The kkkops are the cutting edge of fascism for the capitalist class, who need racist and sexist terror in order to divide and oppress workers and protect their profit system. In the instance that the racist bosses or their kkkops are put on trial, the courts work hand-in-hand with them to ensure that they receive no real punishment for their crimes.

Working-Class Anger Prevails

Two scores of fighters showed up in support of the 5th anniversary rally, the result of extensive planning work of the family, PLP, and various other community organizations. Stephon's sister kicked off the event by speaking on the memory of her brother and the need to continue the fight on his behalf.

Two kkkops from the Calumet City department had the gall to walk up to Stephon's mother and offer their "services" for the demonstration. She quickly shouted them down for their racist crimes. The cops scattered off.

After the crowd was fired up, we took to the streets to march on the Calumet City Police Department. PL'ers sharpened the political tone with chants of "White cop, Black cop, all the same! Racist terror is the name of the game!" and "Racism means, we got to fight back! Sexism means, we got to fight back!"

The majority of those present received a copy of CHALLENGE, and we made some new contacts.

Once arriving in front of the police station, different speakers took to the microphone. A teenager with autism gave a moving speech about the daily struggle of living with special needs under capitalism. Two other mothers of Black youth murdered by the kkkops told their stories and echoed the demand for justice. A number of comrades spoke on the bullhorn about the need to reject the latest reform scheme and instead to help organize the fight for revolution. It was empowering for everyone involved to participate in a direct action blasting the racist brutality of the system.

Justice for Stephon means Communism

As communists, we must never hold any illusions about the plans the capitalist bosses have for our youth. The bosses will only offer the majority of us more fascist police terror and racist wars, because that's what their system needs to survive. Our goal remains to win more and more workers and students to communism, a world where racism will be outlawed and police terror will only be a nightmare of the past. Justice for Stephon! Justice for the international working class!

For more information on Stephon Watts and ways to contribute to the struggle, please visit justiceforstephonwatts.com.✪

Worker-Student Alliance Threaten Campus Bosses & Cops

NEW YORK CITY, January 20—At our campus's main entrance, dozens of multiracial, multigender, students, faculty and staff held a militant rally supporting undocumented immigrant students. Much organizing and struggle led to this rally and there is much more to come. The antiracist marchers chanted "Racism means… We got to fight back!" at a line of confused and intimidated campus police. Tensions rose.

As we approached the campus entrance, a young woman Muslim student declared, "Okay I'm skipping class and staying. This is way more important and my professor should be out here anyway."

Near the scared line of campus police, we hesitated. We didn't realize it, but the cops were afraid the militant rally would shut down the main campus entrance. But we backed off, and several cops breathed audible sighs of relief.

That moment symbolized the strengths, weaknesses, and potential power of our growing movement of students, workers and faculty. The potential to shut down the racist and sexist business as usual on our campus, but also to build a revolutionary movement to shut down capitalism itself, with communist revolution.

Moments before, this crowd had shouted down the college president in a mass meeting, challenging him on why he wouldn't support the many immigrant students by declaring our campus a "sanctuary campus." But the undocumented immigrant students, who led the meeting and rally, have shown that the working class here isn't taking racism and sexism lying down.

Members and friends of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) have been in the thick of these struggles, helping to organize, selling CHALLENGE newspaper, and building communist leadership. Our growing base among students, workers and faculty has impacted the campus with the politics of militant antiracism and multiracial unity.

Black Workers Lead

This recent upsurge in communist organizing began when some Black, campus maintenance workers invited some PL'ers to their mass, union meeting. The separate unions of the faculty and campus workers were negotiating new contracts. The maintenance, building, and clerical workers represented are mainly Black, immigrant, and women workers. They are low-paid, work extremely difficult hours, and endure racist and sexist white male supervisors, who often refer to the Black workers as "slaves." The majority are purposely scheduled less than a forty-hour workweek, denying them full-time benefits. Many have worked for years and routinely work above and beyond their job descriptions to provide the best possible learning environment for the mainly Black and immigrant students.

At the workers' mass union meeting, two union organizers tried to pacify the workers, after five years without a contract. Some workers heckled the misleaders, others walked out in disgust. A PL'er stood up and denounced the union misleaders for making backroom deals instead of fighting the racist city bosses. He denounced his own union misleaders for selling out the adjunct faculty and staff, and called for class solidarity across both unions. When the PL'er called on the workers to "fight like Ferguson" and build antiracist working class unity, the union hacks called the campus cops.

Despite being thrown out of the meeting and banned from future meetings, some Black maintenance workers, led by a former Marine, approached the comrade and exchanged contact information. This marked the beginning of several new friendships.

Organize With Friends—Discuss Communism

More recently, we approached some student clubs, including the Muslim Student Alliance (MSA), to screen the antiracist film PROFILED. The clubs agreed, but it was still a struggle to get the film shown. We spent lots of time with our friends, navigating the campus bureaucracy, assembling a panel, etc. It was quite a learning experience, but we succeeded!

Meanwhile, PL'ers organized many CHALLENGE discussion and study groups. Many staff and students read CHALLENGE and lively discussions are everywhere. Students come from our classes and from campus clubs. Former students who had traveled with PLP to the antiracist rebellion in Ferguson also attend.

PROFILED Sharpens Antiracist Politics

The culmination of our semester was the screening of PROFILED to over 100 mostly Black, Latin, Muslim, and immigrant students, workers and faculty. At a panel discussion, students spoke movingly about their personal experiences being profiled by racist cops, and about racism on campus. A Black, Muslim student panelist was moved to tears describing his dual struggles with anti-Black and anti-Muslim racism.

A Black woman student asked if the film's director, a white woman, was trying to "speak for Black people." The response was that the Black women featured in the film, who became inspiring antiracist fighters, spoke for themselves. A Latin woman student wondered if workers were divided by skin color in order to control us, then the solution must involve all skin colors uniting in multiracial unity. A vibrant debate ensued. Finally, a Latin immigrant student suggested that capitalism itself was the problem. He left us with the question, how do we build a revolution to overthrow it?

The sponsoring student clubs gathered over 80 contacts of interested students. An antiracist faculty worker, whose class came to the screening, informed the audience that a "sanctuary committee" was forming on campus. The sanctuary movement to protect undocumented immigrant students is growing on many U.S. campuses. The screening of PROFILED provided a boost for this committee. One Black student asked the film organizers "if they'd ever heard of PLP." His high school teacher was in PLP, and the forum reminded him of his teachers' discussions about multiracial unity and communist revolution. He was put in touch with the PLP group on campus.

Small Steps Toward Revolution

There is a lot of positive fightback. Student clubs, a sanctuary committee, campus workers and faculty are all stepping up. Our Party, the Progressive Labor Party, continues building communist leadership and uniting all these struggles to fight for a better world: communism! Join us!✪

Taxi Workers Slam Uber With International Solidarity

LONG ISLAND CITY, NY, February 2—While tens of thousands of workers and youth were protesting at JFK and other airports against the racist travel ban on Muslims from seven countries, the NY Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA) called a one-hour strike on travel to JFK. This bold act of international, anti-racist solidarity was delivered by an immigrant, mostly Muslim workforce, and enjoyed widespread support.

Uber, on the other hand, tried to make a quick buck by quadrupling their rates on fares to and from JFK. The one-hour strike further exposed Uber as a strike breaker, union buster, and price gouger in the midst of an international crisis. A "Delete Uber" campaign erupted as thousands deleted Uber apps from their smart phones.

Today about 200 members and supporters of the NYTWA rallied in front of Uber headquarters to protest their actions during the strike, and Uber CEO Travis Kalanick's plans to join Trump's Council of Economic Advisors. Support came from other unions and community and immigrant rights groups A speaker from the National Writers Union said, "The answer to fascism is not to go back to the way things were before Election Day, but to move forward to a world with no bans, no walls and no borders; a world based on equality and in the interests of the international working class." This is a good goal but it is unreachable as long as we live under this capitalist system of profiteering and exploitation. In order to get there, we have to stand shoulder to shoulder with workers and youth who are fighting back, and win them to see that this fight requires the long-term struggle for communist revolution.

Just hours before the rally, Kalanick told Trump, "Thanks, but no thanks," to try to reverse Uber's sinking fortunes of the past week. While Kalanick may have been forced to give up his seat at Trump's table, he and Trump and all attack immigrant and Muslim families and make billions by forcing workers to work for less than the minimum wage and destroying other basic worker protections.

Speakers for NYTWA made clear that the solidarity strike was meant to escalate the fight against the racist Muslim ban, and exposed Uber as a corporate collaborator with the rise of fascism. Support for the strike also showed Uber bosses that drivers have mass support. Let's up the struggle from worker solidarity to working class power. Join us in building a revolutionary movement for communism, a society run by and for the working class!✪

Were you at a protest against the Muslim ban?
Share your story and photos with PLP on
Twitter @PLPchallenge
Facebook: Challenge Desafio

Berkeley
No Free Speech for Fascists

BERKELEY, February 1—Thousands of people took to the streets to protest the fascist, racist Milo Yiannopoulos who was supposed to speak at the University of California Berkeley campus. The protest ultimately ended in a direct action that shut him down! Although our communist PLP contingent only included seven, it remains vital that we continue to put the line on the line as these anti-fascist fightbacks continue to pop up. From San Francisco to India to Mexico, the Progressive Labor Party will turn out to ensure that there is no free speech for fascists!

Racist Speech Leads to Racist Violence

In the weeks leading up to the event, there had been debates on campus about free speech versus the need for direct action to stop this fascist, sexist, racist, Trump-inspired movement. Yiannopoulos makes a living spewing hateful ideas. He is a senior editor at Breitbart News, a Zionist rightwing company. He has been part of Trump's movement and often spews sexism anti-Muslim racism. This public figure supports the Muslim ban and talks about how Muslim people are violent and rapists. Most who turned out were convinced to shut it down, especially after the UC administration allowed the event to go forward in the "name of free speech." Under capitalism, "free speech" is used an excuse to spew racist, sexist hate-speech. More importantly, racist speech translates to racist actions. People like Yiannopoulos embolden racists to attack workers, even if he doesn't directly tell people to do it. So, PLP says no free speech for racists!

Parts of the crowd used the police barricades to trash the building and attacked the cops who were trying to protect the space where Milo was supposed to speak. Some Trump supporters were present, one of whom got decked.

These actions had a mass character and sympathy from many who were there or watched it live-stream. The actions also left some young people wondering what they should do in a confrontation. Other lay students were there to see "what's up." Some Berkeley High School students proudly told us about the walkouts against Trump following the election.

Mass Protest Creates Opportunity for Communists

Such mass actions are opportunities in PLP's fight for communism. Our responsibility to spread communist ideas and practice increases. When we have personal or organizational ties with young people, we can move them towards a life-long commitment to fight for an egalitarian, communist world when we involve them in these actions.

PLP members and some friends came out together. Our poster with the CD headlines "This capitalist system, Shut it down" (see photo) caught many people's attention. This allowed us to distribute CHALLENGE and a flyer and gave us opportunities to have deeper discussions about the way capitalism is leading to growing fascism and the need for a communist movement. The interest of workers that we were able to engage with was evidenced by their eagerness to share contact information, and one woman even asked if we had any upcoming events that we were organizing.

Debate has ranged after this event as the mass media tries to lead people to passivism in the face of attack. The debate is wide open for communist to be involved. It will take mass, organized violence to overthrow this system.✪

No Free Speech for Sexism and Racism: Milo Yiannopoulos is a court jester dancing on the stage set by the biggest capitalist players (Republican Democrats politicians, Goldman Sachs finance capitals, Breitbart open white nationalists/racists & sexist attackers) Milo's hate speech clearly has ties to the highest levels of State Power- He performed at the Republican Nominating convention, Young Republicans are sponsoring a tour of the US campuses, his jokes and attacks echo Breitbart/ Bannon and Trump tweeted to stop Funds for UC Berkeley since he could not speak.

Shut Down Alt-Reality: The role of the bosses' state in defending fascism is illustrated when the University argues for "free speech" to give "safe space" for organizing a movement to attack workers and students worldwide. Part of fascism is the "alt reality" that Milo and Trump promote: "There is no real racism or sexism in society—it's all the heads of those who fight back" Spreading of such "alt-reality" is part of the growth of fascist culture and thinking. It is a revolt against science disguised as "alternative" facts (read: lies).

LA Airport

These Racist Borders Have Got to Go

LOS ANGELES, January 29— Friends and members of Progressive Labor Party joined thousands of protestors at Los Angeles International Airport to demand the reversal of Trump's fascist travel ban on Muslim workers. We were energized that so many workers responded quickly and militantly to fascism. It confirms our confidence in the working class that when workers are attacked, they will fight back! Now more than ever, we need to be talking to our friends and building relationships in mass organizations so that we can channel working class rage into war against the bosses and their capitalist system.

The politics of the masses was mixed, often with a patriotic and nationalist line. There was virtually no talk about how five of the seven countries on this travel ban have been indiscriminately bombed by Obama's drone program, killing thousands of our sisters and brothers, many of them women and children. The mass migration from these regions is directly due the instability created by U.S. imperialism and the decades of slaughter in that region. However, many workers recognized the fascist intent of the ban, referencing the Holocaust and chanting militantly, "No Trump, No KKK, No fascist USA!" In spite of the nationalist bend, there was mass support of our chant, "From Palestine to Mexico, All these walls have got to go."

A couple of Party members came with several base members from the church and college campus where we are in mass organizations. One young Muslim woman and future medical student was part of a team that helped the lawyers translate for our working-class sisters and brothers being held by immigration at the airport. She also gave spirited leadership, making new friends quickly and leading chants. She attempted to get the crowd to chant, "Asian, Latin, Black and white, Workers of the world unite!" and "Fascism means we got to fight back!" The crowd was reluctant to chant these, but they were also reluctant to chant the national anthem as a couple of people tried to get us to do.

Reluctance to chant the national anthem and support for international chants shows us that workers recognize that borders and nationalism are partially responsible for racism like this Muslim ban. It's our job as communists to bring more militancy to these struggles and sharpen workers' internationalist side.

With all the political weakness and seemingly headless leadership, the mass militancy of the group and openness to our anti-fascist line further exemplifies the importance of mobilizing our base within mass organizations, on the job and college campuses to fight for every member of class! We have a long way to go but we will be inviting our friends to participate in a study group and also start a campus group aimed at defending our immigrant and Muslim sisters and brothers.✪

DC Transit

Put the Brakes on Budget Cuts & Fare Hikes

WASHINGTON, DC, January 30— Progressive Labor Party members protested with 25 other workers and riders outside the headquarters of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) as the transit bosses held a public hearing began on raising the fare and cutting service.

Over 300 workers and riders attended the hearing. Ninety workers spoke out, condemning the cutbacks in transit service and the proposed increase in fares. The next day, the transit bosses claimed to have found some money to reduce their estimated deficit.

The Metro transit bosses claim that they are facing a budget deficit of $290 million starting with the fiscal year July 1, 2017. We know that this deficit is artificial. It exists because the corporations and developers near Metro transit stations refuse to pay taxes for the services they receive from the transit system. All local politicians are united in opposing a business tax to cover Metro's "deficit", calling instead for a sales tax on workers to finance the system and for eliminating 300 jobs to save money.

In the days before the hearings, thousands of workers and students rallied and marched in response to Trump's executive orders attacking immigrants and refugees and restarting the Keystone pipeline and the Dakota Access Pipeline project. Trump attacks some of the most vulnerable people in the world with these orders while hastening global destruction associated with global warming by these orders.

Progressive Labor Party members have been involved in all these activities, trying to increase the militancy of those involved and make the struggle an attack on the capitalist ruling class as a whole, not just Trump. We have reached hundreds of people with CHALLENGE newspaper and many people have provided us with contact information for followup.

The Progressive Labor Party's strategy is to unite these forces of resistance in a common struggle against racism, sexism, imperialism, and capitalism. Many of the workers and students at these events agree with this approach, but they do not yet see the need for a party, in particular the PLP, to make this happen. Overcoming this barrier mainly by fighting anti-communism is our central task now.

We must be there to lead them into the streets and eventually into our party, which has a strategy of relying on the working class to destroy capitalism and replace it with a communist system of equality.✪

Smash Racist Demolitions, State Terrorism

UM AL-HIRAN, ISRAEL-PALESTINE, January 18— Early in the morning, a large police force arrived at Um al-Hiran, an "unrecognized" Bedouin village in the Negev (southern Israel-Palestine) to demolish the village and evict its residents from the land. They have done this repeatedly over the years to set up a town for rich Jewish people from abroad, which will be named "Hiran." The cops attacked with brutal violence and massive force. They killed Yaqoub Mousa Abu al-Qia'an, a Bedouin teacher from the village, and wounded many residents and activists, including two members of the Knesset (the legislative body in Israel) from the leftist organization "Joint List." The cops were armed as if going to war with heavy weapons and body armor. Before the demolitions, the police blocked the roads leading to the village and tried to stop activists from arriving to the aid of the residents.

To cover up their racist murder, the police quickly branded Yaqoub Mousa Abu al-Qia'an a "terrorist". The story they gave was that he was driving a truck during the demolition of his village, which he used to hit and kill a policeman. He was then killed by police fire. The government claimed that this was a "terrorist attack" aimed at police officers. However, Abu al-Qia'an's autopsy revealed the regime's blatant lies. The police shot him first, which caused him to lose control of his truck and hit them. Then they shot him again.

The attacks enraged people all across the country. On the same evening, activists went out to protest in Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem, and other cities. On the next Saturday, activists - both Jewish and Arab - came to Umm al-Hiran to show solidarity with the residents. All of this was done in defiance of the government and its slander of the Bedouins. The boss' main strategy is to divide and pacify working class anger by scapegoating the most vulnerable. We must defeat this boss' lies by building multi-racial unity, like the workers did here.

These events are typical of the Israeli government. For decades, its Zionist policy has been the same: give Jews as much land as possible, and take away as much land as possible from Arabs. When Arabs try to resist this, the regime brands them as "terrorists". Compare this eviction to how the Israeli government wants to "evict" settlers from Amona (a blatantly illegal west-bank settlement) to a nearby hill, after being sued for building on (stolen) private Palestinian land. Each settler family will get 2 million NIS ($500,000) in compensation, and no one will be shooting at them. This hypocrisy is racism at work, plain and simple.

However, Israeli bosses also uses the same tactics against Jewish workers to enrich themselves. In 2015, Israeli police violently evicted working-class families from the Tel-Aviv neighborhood of Givat Amal Bet. The billionaire real-estate tycoon Yizhak Tshuva purchased the land - formerly state land - and decided to build luxury towers on it. Jewish workers housed on this land by the government since 1948 stood in his way, so he sent the cops to throw them out violently, without them having alternative housing.

This is why Jewish and Palestinian (including Bedouin) workers must unite against this racist policy and defend the right of all workers for their homes. The ones who should be evicted from this land are the tycoons, the fascists, and the cops. As long as capitalism exists, justice for workers is a pipedream. We need to continue to be in the fight exposing this racist system and struggling for more multi-racial, revolutionary, working class unity.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Yemeni Bodegas on Strike

Last week a couple of my women ESL students from Yemen told me about a protest by Yemeni bodega and deli small business owners in NYC. So I went. More than 1000 deli owners shut down their stores for 8 hours across NYC and more than 5000 headed to downtown Brooklyn to protest against the Trump ban forbidding entry to the US from 7 mostly Muslim countries. Yes, there were a lot of American flags, a mass prayer observance and the usual Democrat politicians. But things are not always as they seem.

After the prayer service the crowd (men) got energized, chanting "Justice now" and "No ban , no wall, US for all." My comrade circulated and distributed 65 Challenge newspapers. I carried my sign "No ban, no wall. Refugees and immigrants, welcome here. Don't blame for refugees for imperialist wars!" Many stopped to take a picture. As they did I said, "It's not about terrorism, it's about imperialism. I was born here, but I don't carry that flag. A flag that stands for bombing countries like Syria and Yemen off the map for control of oil." Serious faces. "Yes, that's true." "Thank you lady." "We need more like you." I also said, "This is a big protest. Imagine if the women were here, it would be twice as big."

Later my students sent me my picture with my sign that was circulating on Facebook. One texted me, "Good job, my teacher!" That evening in the housing committee in the organization I work in, I taped my sign to the wall of the meeting room and reported about the protest, the sign and its meaning. The Latino immigrants clapped. Next up, big fight against deportations and suspension of DACA. And of course the crucial, ongoing, long term effort to spread PLP's ideas and build the Party.

Bodega Strike rally at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Hundreds of Yemeni bodegas throughout New York City shut down for a day in response to Trump's immigration ban.

★★★★★

Solidarity with Muslim, Refugee & Immigrant Workers

I am a member of a church, and I'm happy to say that our church had a swift response to Trump's fascist travel ban! Four activists from the church went to the NYC Battery Park protest on January 29 which drew tens of thousands of outraged antiracists. Most important, one of us distributed 125 CHALLENGEs indicting capitalism as the root cause of this upsurge of fascist terror. Another carried a poster proclaiming, "Unite in solidarity with our Muslim, refugee, and immigrant sisters and brothers," with contact information for the church. Scores of people photographed our sign and took flyers describing six different struggles we are leading or involved in. Some people we met promised to contact us further.

Another member of the church went to the antiracist rally in his town with his family. His son carried a poster comparing the American Empire with the Roman Empire and predicting a similar end for American fascism. His granddaughter made her own poster decrying the unfairness of a law that victimizes her Muslim friends at school. Many of his relatives and friends saw these pictures on Facebook.

Massive social media protest turnouts are very encouraging. However, by themselves they will not build the vital revolutionary communist movement essential to doom the ruling class once and for all. This vital task challenges PLP to bring our politics to the actions. Then we must bring the energy of our experience and the contacts we make back into the mass organization in which we are daily building a base for communism!

★★★★★

Inspiring Antiracists at JFK

My wife and I went to JFK airport on January 28 to join the mass rally against the detention of eleven travelers —all with green cards or visas—from Muslim countries that are on Trump's travel ban list. There were many thousands of people there, both native and foreign born, young and old. The protest pulsated with defiance and anger, with deafening chants of "Let Them In!", "Resist!, Fight Back!, This Is Our New York!", and "[epithet] the Wall, We'll Tear It Down!"

Other chants were "Say It Loud, Say It Clear, Immigrants Are Welcome Here!", "Refugees In, Racists Out!", "No Hate, No Fear, Refugees Are Welcome Here!", "No Borders, No Nations, Stop Deportations!", "No Trump, No KKK, No Fascist USA!", and "Here to Stay, Here to Fight!". I think we should use some of the above chants for May Day on April 29.

We also learned that NYC taxi drivers were joining the protest by refusing to work at the airport. If CHALLENGE readers get a chance to attend any of these rallies in support of Muslim immigrants, take it! They're occurring all over the country. They're really important, the spirit of resistance is exhilarating and it's going to spread to campus, without a doubt!

In the words of the communist playwright and poet Bertolt Brecht, "Because things are the way they are, things will not stay the way they are."

★★★★★

Not Just Racist DeVos

DeVos is that high-speed train wreck for public education that many feared but few wanted to admit was coming. This racist path towards the destruction of public education, the criminalization of our students and the ruination of unions and pensions started a long time ago. Remember No Child Left Behind? Duncan? King? Vouchers? Charter Schools? These people and policies do nothing for us, the working class. They are unable to. They are part of the system-the capitalist system-that only seeks to enrich itself. Under Clinton it was 'zero tolerance'. Our children were criminalized and incarcerated. Under Bush's NCLB a single test determined the future of our children and tied the hands of our teachers. Obama accelerated the move towards Charters. In fact the latest education bill, ESSA has provisions for moves towards more privatization and the enrichment of testing companies like Pearson. Do not forget! All of these administrations carried out racist and anti-student policies.

At every opportunity, both Republican and Democratic administrations chipped away at public education. Insane regulations have been imposed on public school teachers, tying our hands on innovation and just plain good teaching while Charter schools continue to get a pass. They get the freedom to profit off the backs of (predominantly Black and brown) students while we are denied the freedom to teach.

DeVos has to go but that is not enough. We have to do everything to put the power back in Workers' hands. As history shows us, neither the Democrats nor the Republicans can do this. The capitalist state will never do for workers what we can and must do for our class. Every time there is a minor change, we accept it as 'enough for now'. History shows us that until we, the workers control society, those crumbs will never be enough. History shows us that a vote for students must mean a vote for communism.

★★★★★

New Student Fighter vs. Racism

I attended the San Francisco Airport protest, my second protest ever (the women's march in San Francisco was my first). It was really refreshing to be in an environment where everyone truly was there because they cared for the cause. It was so spur of the moment, so people had to make a decision to prioritize it really quickly. People weren't there to take pictures and show off.

I was really surprised at how many people were there and how united everyone was. I thought there would be people with their own separate agendas that would complicate things, like some people deciding to be more violent, which wasn't what I signed up for. I was really glad that people were united and made the victims of the racist oppression the focus, and not Donald Trump. There were some anti-Trump chants, but I thought it was more important that people focused on uniting people with their families and getting their human rights secured.

In a weird sense, I truly realized how terrible Trump's policies are. It's not like I thought it was no big deal when I heard his policies on immigration, but seeing all those people made it real. The fact that there were so many other people who were willing to show up and protest shows that it's not something we can brush off. I felt like, "This stuff is happening and there is something to be done. I'm not crazy to think this is a big deal because other people do too."

★★★★★

College Student: Lessons for the Struggle

Alongside strangers, friends from my college, and comrades, I demanded the release of the refugees being held at San Francisco Airport after Trump's executive order banning immigrants from seven majority-Muslim countries. We chanted, discussed politics, and listened to speeches. The time my comrades and I spent in the international arrivals was as invigorating as it was necessary.

I began thinking of truisms to remember in the coming months: Inaction places you on the side of the oppressor. Compliance is a crime. There is nothing better than being united for a single, just cause. In this current political sphere, it it imperative we unite and fight. Unite and fight or become the one being fought. There is no victory if one controls all. Do not accept this as normal. Support your comrades and yourself. Esoteric language helps no one. Whose side are you on?

★★★★★

NJ: Students, Workers Protest Inauguration

NEWARK, NJ, January 20—It rained, and we marched. PLP members worked with a developing Newark-based organization that has sprung up largely in reaction to Donald Trump's racist immigration policy, to organize a rally, a march, and a general assembly to coincide with now President Trump's inauguration.

While it literally "rained on our parade," this rain did not dampen our revolutionary optimism in the face of the potential for a fascist Trump regime to lobby a laundry list of ruthless policies against the economic interests of the working class across the globe.

The rally was held at Independence Park in the Ironbound section of Newark, and it boasted about 60 people in attendance. The event was scheduled to coincide with a walkout planned at East Side High School at 2 pm.

East Side students did not walk out, as they were possibly demoralized—their action to oust Superintendent Cami Anderson did not result in reversing the move towards the privatization of public education in the city. However, many joined the rally and march after school let out at 2:40pm. A representative of the Newark Student Union speak to the crowd, encouraging students that this is not the time to lay down. Instead, he shouted, "It's time to fight back!"

During the rally and the march, PLP members played significant roles in engaging Newark students and residents, encouraging people to join the march and moving the conversation to the left. When a PLP member took the bullhorn, he emphasized that Trump is simply "a manifestation of capitalist ideologies," connecting the content of Trump's rhetoric to a criticism of the capitalist system that perpetuates this type of discourse. The audience responded well to this analysis and the argument that Hillary Clinton is not a favorable alternative, citing the racist and sexist policies that she has endorsed throughout her political career. When PLP members had the opportunity to lead chants during the march, these truncated articulations of our line worked to energize the protestors, moving them away from popular liberal slogans, such as "dump Trump" and "Donald Trump has got to go," to chants that promoted the power of global working class solidarity against the reactionary nationalism of a Trump administration. Marchers quickly got on board when PLP members shouted "If Trump wants massive deportation, we say working people have no nation;" and "Asian, Latin, Black, and White, workers of the world unite!"

The march was capped off with a general assembly held at Rutgers-Newark. By this point, much of the crowd had dispersed, and representatives of the various groups that sponsored the march primarily populated the room. PLP members bringing out our communist line. While one group promoted socialists to run for elected office, PL'ers accurately cited the failure of electoral politics as a vehicle to bring forth revolutionary change. That said, the political direction that this new Newark-based group will take in the coming months is not yet clear. It is up to the PLP working within the organization to bring forth an analysis of the state's relationship to the ruling class power.

Our demonstration in Newark may not have been the size of those in other cities on this day, but it did represent the start of something here on the ground. In The Poverty of Philosophy (1847) Marx wrote, "irrespective of the fact that it is always the bad side that in the end triumphs over the good side. It is the bad side that produces the movement which makes history, by providing a struggle."

Trump, and the fascist regime his administration represents, will intensify class struggle around the world. PLP will fight alongside working people, engage with them politically, learn from their experience, and share our communist line. We cannot be the "tail that wags the dog." We cannot wait for students and workers to come to us to learn that the only solution is communist revolution.✪

SFO Rally vs. Muslim Ban

Continued from page 8

and criticizing Trump, but in conversations, people were open to making bigger connections. One comrade told us later that someone had responded to getting CHALLENGE with, "Of course the issue is capitalism!"

After the protest, we ate and talked about our experience. A comrade noted that the political vacuum left room for us to take leadership. Many people are mobilized now, but we must struggle to put revolutionary communist politics out front every time we fight back against these racist attacks on the working class. Another comrade agreed, saying that she noticed something similar amongst her friends. Many have reached out to her about politics more in the past few weeks and seem to be seeking political leadership.

As we deal with the fear and chaos so many people are experiencing, we have to be clear that "It's not just Trump, It's capitalism!" After all, it was Obama who laid the groundwork for Trump's racist ban. Obama deported 2.4 million workers, more than any other president ever. Obama was first to list the seven mostly Muslim countries in his racist 2015 Terror Prevention Act (see front page). As those young, Black rebels in Ferguson said "The whole damn system has to go!" Join the Progressive Labor Party to make that happen.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

U.S. terrorist raid kills Yemeni

NYT, 1-31 — …In an American commando raid in central Yemen….after initially denying…civilian casualties, Pentagon officials backtracked…after reports…trickled in and grisly photographs of bloody children…killed in the attack appeared on social media….

Yemen's foreign minister…condemning the Special Operations [said]…"The extrajudicial killings and killing civilians are acts that support terrorism.

…Another…official said that at least eight women and seven children, ages 3 to 13, had been killed in the raid.

S. Africa's 'concentration camp' for mentally ill

NYT, 2/3 — Corpses of psychiatric patients were found with head injuries and unexplained bruises. Relatives were not informed of the deaths of their loved ones. The transfers of mentally ill patients were seen as business opportunities….

…94 psychiatric patients died…last year after being moved…to facilities that were likened in some cases to concentration camps….

…Facilities were overcrowded and "full of hungry patients,…" some were wearing pants held together with shoelaces….

…others died from "things like dehydration, diarrhea, epilepsy, heart attacks, all other things except mental illness."

Demopublicans refuse to pay for GIs exposed to cancer-causing nuclear tests

NYT, 1/31 — When Tom Snider arrived…to clean up the fallout from dozens of nuclear tests…Army officers immediately ordered him to put on a respirator and bright yellow suit designed to guard against plutonium poisoning.

A military film crew snapped photos and shot movies of Mr. Snider,…a 20-year-old radiation technician, in the new safety gear. Then he was ordered to give all the gear back…. He spent the rest of his four-month stint…wearing only cutoff shorts and a floppy sunhat.

"I never saw one of those suits again," Mr. Snider, now 58, said…."It was just propaganda."

Today Mr. Snider has tumors on his ribs, spine and skull…resulted from his work on the crew….

Roughly 4,000 troops helped clean up the atoll…. Most did not even wear shirts, let alone respirators. Hundreds…are now plagued by…brittle bones, cancer and birth defects in their children. Many are already dead. Others are too sick to work.

The military says there is no connection between these illnesses and the cleanup….[and] refuses to pay for the veterans' medical care….a longstanding pattern in which the government has shrugged off responsibility for its nuclear mistakes….

…Veterans have been denied care because shoddy or intentionally false radiation monitoring was later used as proof that there was no radiation exposure….

For two years, the…veterans have been trying, without success, to win medical care from Congress…. As new cases of cancer emerge nearly every month, many…wonder how much longer they can wait….

…Documents….show that the government used troops instead of professional nuclear workers to save money. Then it saved even more money by skimping on safety precautions….

…Of 431 of the veterans….20 percent reported cancer. An additional 34 percent…reported…problems…related to radiation, like failing bones, infertility and thyroid problems….

Paul Laird….then a 20-year-old bulldozer driver…began scraping topsoil that…contained plutonium. He was given no safety equipment.

"The dust was like baby powder. We were covered in it," said Mr. Laird, now 60…. "But we couldn't even get a paper dusk mask. I begged for one daily. My lieutenant said…use a T-shirt."

….When he turned 52, he found a lump that turned out to be kidney cancer. A scan…showed he also had bladder cancer….

He applied repeatedly for free veterans' health care for radiation but was denied….

"When the job was done, they threw my bulldozer in the ocean because it was so hot," Mr. Laird said. "If it got that much radiation, how the hell did it miss me?"

….A 1950 Supreme Court ruling bars troops and their families from suing for injuries arising from military service….

"A lot of guys can't survive anymore, financially," said Jeff Dean, 60….

Mr. Dean developed cancer at 43….bones in his spine deteriorated. Unpaid medical bills left him $100,000 in debt.

"No one seems to want to admit anything….I don't know how much longer we can wait, we have guys dying all the time."

Drug profiteers conspire to jack up insulin prices

NYT, 1/31 — A lawsuit…accused three makers of insulin of conspiracy to drive up the prices of their life-saving drugs, harming patients who were being asked to pay for a growing share of their drug bills.

The price of insulin has skyrocketed,…with Sanofi, Novo Nordisk and Eli Lily raising the list prices of their products in near lock step [that]…have little to do with increased production costs.

The lawsuit….cites several…patients with diabetes who, unable to afford their insulin treatments, which can cost up to $900 a month, have resorted to injecting themselves to control themselves with expired insulin or starving themselves to control their blood sugar….

A recent study…found that the price of insulin nearly tripled from 2002 to 2013.

U.S. AND CHINESE IMPERIALISM: ALREADY AT WAR IN AFRICA

Africa is emerging as a massive battlefield between U.S. and Chinese imperialism, who covet total control over the continent's enormous resources, labor, and emerging markets. The multilingual, multiethnic working class is caught in between this rivalry, having already endured centuries of pillaging and underdevelopment by European imperialism, with nothing but more violence, bloodshed and devastation from either bosses' side.

While U.S. imperialism tries to regroup militarily from the devastating defeats in Iraq and Afghanistan, the rate of U.S. military involvement in Africa has been ramping up quickly. U.S. Special Forces units are now conducting operations in 33 countries in Africa, or two-thirds of the continent. "'It's the land of tremendous opportunity, but the land where, if the perfect storm brews, a lot of negative things could happen,' said Major General Joseph Harrington, commanding general of U.S. Army Africa. (Defense Times 10/2/2016)

While Obama frequently claimed humanitarian reasons for sending troops to Africa, "The majority of African governments that hosted deployments of U.S. commandos in 2016 have seen their own security forces cited for human rights abuses by the U.S. State Department, including Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Tanzania, among others. Elite U.S. troops are also deployed to Sudan, one of three nations, along with Iran and Syria, cited by the U.S. as "state sponsors of terrorism""(The Intercept 12/31/16).

The military operations aid in propping up governments that support U.S. imperialism, kicking out governments that don't, and conducting "proxy wars." Proxy wars are provoked by major imperialists, but are not fought by them directly. In Africa, proxy wars secure the U.S. bosses' access to those natural resources, emerging markets and sources of cheap labor without which capitalist production cannot function without.

China's Bosses Gain at U.S. Imperialism's Expense

Chinese and U.S. imperialism are already in direct economic confrontation in Africa, where the U.S. is being "crushed" (CNN Money, 6/30/16).

The Democratic Republic of Congo is just one example. It is Africa's second largest country and, with 80 million workers, is the largest French-speaking country in the world. Its potential as an emerging capitalist market is rivaled only by its richness in natural resources. The DR Congo contains the world's largest supplies of fresh water, as well as the world's largest deposits of oil, copper, diamonds, gold, uranium, and coltan. Nearly every cellular phone in the world, for example, uses coltan and cobalt, likely mined by working class children as young as seven (Reuters, 1/19/16).

The situation of women workers is extreme, with the UN blasting the DR Congo's government for routinely permitting and using rape as a tactic to terrorize politically active women workers.

Only when China's bosses started coming out on top of the mass slaughter of the Congo Wars, in 2002, did reports about "human rights" become a concern to the U.S. bosses. "Since 2000, China has emerged as Africa's largest trading partner and a major source of investment finance as well. Large numbers of Chinese workers have moved to Africa in recent years…as high as one million" (Brookings.edu, 7/11/16). In addition, China has added Africa to its $8 trillion "One Belt One Road" (OBOR) project, building strategic deep-water ports and railway networks (The Duran, 6/7/16).

While the imperialist powers fight it out behind the scenes, workers everywhere else in Africa are bearing the brunt of the attacks carried out by warring militias, leading to massive casualties as well as starvation and homelessness and the forced enlistment of child soldiers. "Chad's forces just a few years ago were involved in a report from Amnesty International about a massive recruitment of child soldiers. …this is one of the U.S.'s main proxy forces [in Africa]" (In These Times 8/17/2015).

Workers Fight Back!

The working class of Africa has produced masses of women and men leaders who have led tremendous fightbacks against imperialism. The masses continue to organize and fight! In 2011, demonstrations against unemployment in Tunisia transformed into rebellions that brought down the government. Repeated general strikes in 2016 in the DR Congo, (Reuters, 2/16/16) brought entire sectors of the mining-based economy to a screeching halt. Miners, students and workers have rocked South Africa with rebellions for years.

The workers are bravely fighting, amidst lethal danger, under the leadership of liberal misleaders and reformist ideas. The history of mass communist-led fightback and anti-imperialist struggle, however, is in the fabric of working class history. Our work to earn the leadership of the masses is cut out for us, and we continue building the communist Progressive Labor Party across Africa.✪

SAN FRAN AIRPORT

REFUGEES ARE WELCOME HERE

SAN FRANCISCO, January 28—The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and friends joined hundreds of protesters at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) on Saturday night to demand that all refugees be let in! It is the capitalists who create millions of refugees with their imperialist wars and racist violence. Then they use their borders to divide workers from each other. We need to smash Trump's racist ban as we fight for a communist revolution that will eliminate all borders and end imperialist wars so that workers can build an egalitarian world without racism and sexism.

We were supposed to have a meeting that Saturday, but we quickly shifted our plans to join the protest. At first some of us were hesitant to cancel the meeting, but as soon as we got to SFO we were all energized. As we entered, people on their way out raised their fists and said, "Thanks for coming! We need people to replace us!" Hundreds of chanting protesters were at the international arrivals gate. The crowd was multiracial and was not divided by identity group or organization.

We joined the chanting, and we even led some chants. The crowd loved our chant, "They say go back, we say fight back!" While people gave speeches, we handed out fliers and CHALLENGE newspaper. After the apolitical women's marches last weekend, this militant SFO rally was energizing. Mostly, the politics were limited to reforming immigration

Continued on page 7

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